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ROTHWELL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1954

Urban District of Rothwell

Members of the Public Health Committee : 1954-55.

COUNCILLOR T. NICHOLS (Chairman), COUNCILLORS: A. BOYCE, H. CROSS, R. L. DAINTY, K. H. HICKINBOTHAM, F. T. LEE, J.P. AND F. J. W. WEST, C.C.

THE CHAIRMAN and VICE-CHAIRMAN of the Council are *ex-officio* members.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health:

JAMES CARROLL, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H., D.CH.

Also holds the appointments of

Medical Officer of Health, Burton Latimer Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Corby Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Desborough Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Kettering Rural District Council.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

School Medical Officer to the Northamptonshire County Council.

Secretary :

MISS M. W. LANGLEY.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

A. SMITH, M.S.I.A., M.R.SAN.I., CERT.S.I.B.

Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as an Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

Public Health Department,
75 London Road,
KETTERING.
June, 1955.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rothwell Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1954.

Dr. J. T. Murphy, your former Medical Officer of Health, resigned during the year and I commenced duty on 1st May, 1955.

The Vital Statistics for the year under review were as follows:—
The population (Registrar General's Estimate) was 4,710, a slight increase on last year's figure of 4,692.

The Birth-Rate 17.41 showed an increase on the year 1953 when it was 16.41 and it is the highest recorded figure over the last seven years.

The Death-Rate 12.31 showed an increase on the previous year when it was 11.30 but with the exception of the year 1951, when it was 16.58, this rate has remained fairly constant over the past seven years.

There were no deaths recorded under the headings Infantile Mortality and Maternal Mortality and this must be regarded as very satisfactory.

Sections C, D and E of the report have been submitted by your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Section C deals with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area and an account of the Water Supply, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal is given.

Section D deals with the Public Health and Housing Acts.

Section E gives an account of the Inspection and Supervision of Food.

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members for the good wishes they have kindly extended to me on taking up this appointment and also for the kind consideration and help I have received from the Council Staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CARROLL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years
1950, 1951, 1952, 1953 and 1954.

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Area (acres)	3,638	3,638	3,638	3,638	3,638
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	4,671	4,584	4,649	4,692	4,710
Number of Live Births	50	67	58	67	82
Legitimate	48	66	57	65	81
Illegitimate	2	1	1	2	1
Birthrate per 1,000 population	10.70	14.61	12.48	16.41	17.41
Number of still Births ...	2	—	4	1	3
Legitimate	2	—	4	1	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	38.46	—	64.52	14.71	35.29
Rate per 1,000 population ...	0.42	—	0.86	0.21	0.64
Number of deaths	61	76	47	53	58
Deathrate per 1,000 population	13.05	16.58	10.11	11.30	12.31
Death from Pregnancy, Child-birth and Abortion	—	—	—	—	—
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	20.00	—	17.24	14.93	—
Neonatal Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	—	17.24	14.93	—
*Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	1	2	1	—	1
*Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	1	—	1
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms	8	12	10	12	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age	—	—	—	—	—
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—

*Registrar-General's figures.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1954

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 live Births						
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fever	Whooping Cough	Diph- theria	Tuber- culosis	Influenza	Small-Pox	Acute Polio- myelitis and Polio- encephalitis	Pneumonia	Diarr- hoea & Enteritis under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year				
England and Wales ...	15.2	0.36 14.0	11.3	—	*	*	0.00	0.16	*	0.04	—	*	0.00	*	0.48	0.8	25.5

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Rothwell
Urban District

...	19.85	0.64	10.46	—	—	—	0.21	—	—	—	0.42	—	—
-----	-------	------	-------	---	---	---	------	---	---	---	------	---	---

Maternal causes
excluding Abortion

Due to
Abortion

Total Maternal
Mortality

The Maternal Mortality rates for England and Wales
per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births)

Rothwell Urban District ...

0.58	0.11	0.69
—	—	—

* These are an average for the four quarters of 1954

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	3,638
Registrar General's estimate of resident population ...	4,710
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Book	1,633
Rateable Value	£22,230
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£84

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows:—Boot and Shoe manufacture, Ironstone Mining and manufacture of Agricultural Implements.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year :

LIVE BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	81	37	44
Illegitimate	1	1	—
TOTALS ...	<u>82</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>44</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17.41

STILL BIRTHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Legitimate	3	—	3
Illegitimate	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	<u>3</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>3</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still Births) 35.29

DEATHS	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
	58	31	27
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (crude)	12.31		
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (corrected)	10.46		
Death from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	—		
Death-rate of infants under one year of age:—			
All infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	—		
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	—		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	—		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—		
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—		
Deaths from Enteritis and Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	—		
Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms	11		
Deaths from Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	—		

Deaths.—Comparability factor for 1954 was 0.85. The crude death-rate per 1,000 population for 1954 was 12.31 which multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.85 supplied by the Registrar General, gives a corrected death-rate of 10.46. This rate of 10.46 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex distribution of the population of Rothwell Urban District was distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

LIVE BIRTH RATES, 1954

A comparability factor has been issued for 1954 by the Registrar General which allows for the different age and sex distribution of Rothwell and provides a basis for comparison with that of England and Wales as a whole.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	...	17.41
Rothwell corrected by comparability factor	1.14					19.85
England and Wales	...	...	...	...		15.2

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES, 1954

Infantile mortality is the number of deaths in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births. This is an indication of the environmental and social conditions of a community with special reference to housing, overcrowding, and maternity and child welfare.

Rothwell	...	...	...	...	...	—
England and Wales	...	...	...	...		25.5

The registered causes of death were as follows:—

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
All causes	...	...	...	...	31	27	58
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...			1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...			—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...			—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...			—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...			—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...			—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...			—	—	—
8. Measles	...	...			—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases					—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasms stomach	...				—	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus					2	—	2
12. Malignant neoplasm breast	...	...			—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	...	...			—	—	—
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms					2	2	4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...			—	—	—
16. Diabetes	...	...			—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...				3	3	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...			6	4	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...				—	—	—
20. Other heart disease	...	...			5	6	11
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...			5	1	6
22. Influenza	...	...			—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	...	...			1	1	2
24. Bronchitis	...	...			1	1	2
25. Other disease of the respiratory system					—	1	1
26. Ulcer and stomach duodenum	...				—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...				1	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...			—	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...			1	—	1

Registered causes of death— <i>Continued.</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...			—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...		—	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				1	—	1
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...		—	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	3	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...			—	—	—

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton and by the Laboratory of the Kettering General Hospital.

The following specimens were examined:—

Blood	...	...	...	...	...	5
Faeces	...	...	...	...	...	36
Urine	...	...	...	...	...	3

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**—The County Council is responsible for Ambulance Services. The St. John Ambulance Brigade carry out the service on behalf of the County Council for non-infectious cases.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**—The County Council is responsible for the Home Nursing Service.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—A County Council Welfare Clinic is held twice monthly. A Medical Officer attends one session each month.

Treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases is carried out by the Regional Hospital Board.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children who were immunised in 1954 is as follows:—

Under 5 years of age	...	...	...	32
5 to 14 years of age	...	...	...	3
TOTAL	...	...	...	35
Boosters	...	...	...	41

The number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1954 is as follows:—

Age at 31.12.54	Under 1	1	2	3	4
i.e. Born in Year	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
No. immunised	9	44	47	49	41
Age at 31.12.54	5 - 9	10 - 14	Total		
i.e. Born in Year	1945 - 49	1940 - 44	Under 15		
No. immunised	232	289	711		

WHOOPIING COUGH VACCINATION

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	Total
Whooping Cough only	—	1	—	1
*Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis ...	60	25	—	85

*The combined Diphtheria/Pertussis figures are included in the figures for Diphtheria Immunisation.

VACCINATION

The following table gives the number of vaccinations undertaken during the year: —

	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14	15 or over	Total
Primary	9	3	—	1	13
Re-vaccination ...	—	—	—	—	—

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.—No formal action was taken during the year.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Water Supply.—An adequate supply of water has been maintained by the Mid-Northants Water Board, and no reports of water shortage were received during the year.

Water Analysis.—Two samples of town's water were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination, with the report that both were "Very Satisfactory".

Kettering Road Area Supply.—Following the investigation of the quality of water in the 7 shallow wells on the 11 properties around Rothwell Lodge and Grange Farms and the subsequent appeal to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for a piped supply of water, it was most gratifying to learn that the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board had decided in July to extend the town water main to supply the above properties, and also that the work had commenced by the autumn.

Rainfall.—The rainfall during 1954 amounted to 29.06 inches, the second highest figure since 1937, when 30.88 inches fell.

The total rainfall was evenly distributed over the twelve months, with January and April being the dry months and August and November the wet months.

1954	29.06 ins.	1950	25.58 ins.	1946	25.94 ins.
1953	19.24 ins.	1949	23.72 ins.	1945	20.83 ins.
1952	23.44 ins.	1948	28.77 ins.	1944	21.94 ins.
1951	29.97 ins.	1947	21.21 ins.	1943	19.24 ins.

Water Services.—New services were connected to 28 Council houses and 9 private houses.

Public Swimming Bath.—The wet cold summer gave no encouragement to open air bathing, and those who did attend should be complimented for their tenacity.

The bath water is chlorinated daily according to its use and the need for treatment, so as to maintain an average residual chlorine content of 1 part per million, which assures the purity of the water and causes no discomfort to the bathers.

Mr. R. Cross again carried out his duties of Bath Attendant with efficiency and enthusiasm, and was assisted by Mr. J. Norman who attended to the bath daily during the school holidays.

Between July and September, the following bathers paid for admission to the bath:—

Boys	365	Men	67	
Girls	320	Women	21	Total 773
(a decrease of 1,412 bathers compared with 1953)				

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Public Sewers.—A stoppage occurred in the main 9 inch sewer from Nunnery Avenue corner along Desborough Road, caused by silt. It was found necessary to dredge this length of sewer to clear the stoppage.

Sewage Disposal Works.—An electricity supply was taken by overhead cable from a point near the Lodge Farm, Kettering Road, to the sewage disposal works, Glendon Road. and electric motors installed to drive the sludge pumps from the sedimentation tanks and humus tanks.

These motors are working efficiently and are a safeguard against the constant fear of the old and worn out oil engines breaking down.

Public Cleansing.—A weekly collection of house and trade refuse has been maintained excepting for holiday periods.

The Karrier Bantam refuse vehicle continues to give good service.

Controlled Tipping.—All household refuse is deposited in the Controlled Tip at Thorpe Underwood, and facilities are available for tradesmen to deposit their trade waste in the tip at moderate charges.

Salvage Collections.—The total collections of mixed waste papers of 65 tons 16 cwts. was a new high record collection for this Council, and is higher than the national average figure.

This increase is due partly to the industry of your collectors and also the greater availability of paper due to there being more wrapping materials used for goods of all kinds.

This record total of 65 tons 16 cwts. of waste paper brought in a revenue of £434 (equivalent to a 5d. Rate) as against £377 for 56 tons 9 cwts. in 1953.

Annual Tonnage of Waste Paper—

			<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>
1947	...	...	22	18	0
1948	...	...	52	9	1
1949	...	...	51	15	1
1950	...	...	54	0	1
1951	...	...	52	18	0
1952	...	...	48	11	0
1953	...	...	56	9	0
1954	...	...	65	16	0

Rodent Control.—32 infestations of rats were successfully dealt with by your Rodent Operator during the year, when 163 bodies were recovered mostly at the refuse disposal tip and sewage works.

The use of the new rodenticide “Warfarin” has proved most successful, and has been the means of completely exterminating whole colonies of rats, followed by long clear periods before reinfestation.

Sewer treatment was carried out by test baiting 12 manholes on different parts of the system, but no evidence of infestations were found.

Factories Act, 1937.—There are thirty-five factories on the Register—11 inspections were made and 5 defects found ; all were remedied.

The number of outworkers in August, 1954 was 26.

SECTION D. Public Health and Housing Acts.

Housing.—38 new houses were completed by the Council during the year, and a start was made on a further 28.

4 new houses were completed by the Northamptonshire and District Housing Society Limited.

Public Health and Housing Acts.—Work under these Acts for the purpose of rectifying defects and abating nuisances has been continued throughout the year and the following table gives details of the routine work carried out.

(1) Inspection of dwelling houses during the year : —

1.	(a)	No. of houses inspected for defects	...	302
	(b)	Inspections made for the purpose	...	550
2.	(a)	No. of houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations		6
	(b)	Inspections made for the purpose	...	15

3.	No. of houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health so as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	—
4.	Dwelling houses (exclusive of those under preceding head) not in all respects reasonably fit for inhabitation	...	...	...	...	—
(2)	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice: —					
	No. of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	331
(3)	Action under statutory Powers: —					
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936: —					
1.	No. of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...			—
2.	No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit by owners or the Local Authority after service of formal notice	...	...			—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts: —					
1.	No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...				—
2.	No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after serving notices	...				—
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936: —					
1.	No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	...				—
2.	No. of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	...	...	...		—
3.	No. of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11, and still in force	...	...	...		—

A summary of sanitary defects remedied during the year is as follows: —

Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	36
Blocked drains cleared	...	...	...	18
Inspection chambers provided	...	...		5
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...		7
Soil and Ventilation pipes provided	...			12
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...		6
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	43
Rainwater guttering repaired	...	...		37
Dampness in walls remedied	...	...		15

Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	71
Doors repaired	...	...	55
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	...	...	29
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	18
Sub floor ventilators provided	...	...	3
Handrails provided on staircases	...	...	7
Stairs repaired	...	...	15
Ventilation to larders provided	...	...	4
Washing coppers repaired	...	...	33
Sinks provided	...	...	21
Internal water service provided	...	...	15
Dustbins provided	...	...	130

Number of Notices Served—

Informal	Nuisance	12
	Housing	—
Statutory		—

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat and Food Inspection.—With the commencement of private slaughtering in July, 1954 much concern was felt about the country as to whether there would be adequate slaughtering facilities available to ensure a constant flow of meat for the public.

Many meetings of farmers, butchers and Local Authorities took place and many knotty problems were smoothed out, and it is fairly safe to say that facilities for slaughtering food animals, though not up to the high standard desired, are in fact adequate.

One slaughterhouse in the district has been licensed and is in regular use.

Food.—The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for human consumption, consequently being surrendered and destroyed:—

	<i>lbs.</i>		<i>lbs.</i>
6 cases currants	300	Canned ham	12
1 case sultanas	14	Canned mutton	12
1 case mixed peel	14	Canned plums	120
		Canned dried egg	105
		Canned pork	73
		Canned beef	48

Total weight condemned 698 lbs.

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING 1954

Food Shops	...	...	28
Bakehouse	...	...	8
Meat and Slaughterhouse	...	...	36

I should like to thank all Officers and Staff of the Council for their co-operation, and you Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen for the

support you have given to the various schemes which I have laid before you.

SECTION F. Infectious Diseases.

There were 22 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—6 cases were notified of which 4 were removed to Hospital. All these cases recovered.

Whooping Cough.—15 cases were notified. All recovered.

Paratyphoid B.—2 cases occurred during the year. One case was admitted to the Kettering General Hospital and then transferred to Harborough Road Isolation Hospital, Northampton. The second case was admitted to Harborough Road Isolation Hospital. Both cases recovered.

TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulation, 1925. The regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis to engage in the milk trade. No action was taken during 1954.

During the year 2 cases of Respiratory and one case of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified. The Non-Respiratory case was an Inward Transfer.

There was one death from Respiratory Tuberculosis during the year.

The number of cases in the Register at the end of 1954 was as follows: —

RESPIRATORY			NON-RESPIRATORY			<i>Grand Total</i>
<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	
8	9	17	8	6	14	31

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

23rd—25th August, 1954

PERCENTAGE RESPONSE—FIRMS 75% SCHOOLS 100%

*Summary of newly discovered Cases of Significant Tuberculosis
found in the Rothwell Survey.*

<i>Group</i>	<i>No. of Newly Discovered Cases of Significant Tuberculosis</i>				
	<i>No. X-Rayed</i>	<i>Active P.T.B.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>	<i>Inactive P.T.B.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
Firms	655	—	—	1	—
General Public ...	494	—	—	—	—
Schools	44	—	—	—	—
Boot & Shoe (included above) ...	605	—	—	1	—
TOTAL	1,193	—	—	1	0.84

Mass Radiography Survey.—Above is a summary of the work of the Mass Radiography Survey carried out in Rothwell. This is the fourth survey in this Urban District and it will be noted that in the survey there was only 1 inactive case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis discovered out of a total of 1,193 films taken. This is a very satisfactory result.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1954

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	1	6	7	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	15
Paratyphoid B ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ...	1	—	3	8	7	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	22

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) 1954

Disease	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65+	All Ages	Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever —	—	2	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	4	—	—
Whooping Cough ... 3	—	1	2	2	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS 3	—	3	3	3	2	9	1	—	1	—	—	—	22	5	—	—

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1954

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	1	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	1	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—
55—	—	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	1	1	—

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, 1954

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	—
15—	—	—	—	—
25—	—	—	—	—
35—	—	—	—	—
45—	—	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—
65—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	—	—	—

